

ಅಧ್ಯಕ್ಷತೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಆಡಳಿತ ಸುಧಾರಣಾ ಆಯೋಗವನ್ನು ರಚಿಸಿದೆ ಎಂಬುದು ನಿಮಗೆಲ್ಲ ತಿಳಿದೇ ಇದೆ. ಆಯೋಗವು ಮಧ್ಯಂತರ ವರದಿಯನ್ನು ಈಗ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಿದೆ. ಅದರಲ್ಲಿ ಸ್ಪಂದಿಸುವಂತೆ ಮಾಡಲು ಅನೇಕ ಶಿಫಾರಸುಗಳನ್ನು ಮಾಡಿದೆ. ಆಯೋಗದ ಶಿಫಾರಸು ಸಚಿವಾಲಯದ ಆಡಳಿತ, ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಮಟ್ಟದ ಆಡಳಿತ ಮತ್ತು ಉತ್ತಮ ಆಳ್ವಿಕೆ ಈ ಮೂರು ಕ್ಷೇತ್ರಗಳಿಗೆ ಸಂಬಂಧಿಸಿದೆ. ಸರ್ಕಾರವು ಈ ಶಿಫಾರಸುಗಳನ್ನು ಪರಿಶೀಲಿಸುತ್ತಿದೆ. ಸಿವಿಲ್ ಸೇವೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಸುಧಾರಣೆ ತಂದು ಆ ಮೂಲಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಎಲ್ಲಾ ಮಟ್ಟಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಜನಪರ ಆಡಳಿತವನ್ನು ಕೊಡಲು ನನ್ನ ಸರ್ಕಾರವು ಪ್ರಯತ್ನಿಸುತ್ತದೆ.

72. ಉತ್ತಮ ಆಡಳಿತದಲ್ಲಿ ಪಾರದರ್ಶಕತೆ ಮತ್ತು ಹೊಣೆಗಾರಿಕೆ ಬಹಳ ಮುಖ್ಯ. ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಮಾಹಿತಿ ಹಕ್ಕು ಅಧಿನಿಯಮ ಮತ್ತು ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಟೆಂಡರುಗಳು ಮತ್ತು ಸಂಗ್ರಹಣೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಪಾರದರ್ಶಕತೆ ಅಧಿನಿಯಮ ಎಂಬ ಎರಡು ಮಹತ್ವಪೂರ್ಣ ಅಧಿನಿಯಮಗಳನ್ನು ತರುವ ಮೂಲಕ ಈ ದಿಶೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ನನ್ನ ಸರ್ಕಾರ ದೃಢವಾದ ಹೆಜ್ಜೆಗಳನ್ನು ಇಟ್ಟಿದೆ. ಮೊದಲನೆಯ ಅಧಿನಿಯಮ ಜನತೆಗೆ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಕಾರ್ಯಗಳು ಮತ್ತು ತೀರ್ಮಾನಗಳ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ಮಾಹಿತಿ ಪಡೆಯುವ ಹಕ್ಕನ್ನು ನೀಡುತ್ತದೆ. ಎರಡನೆಯ ಅಧಿನಿಯಮವು ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ನಿಧಿಗಳನ್ನು ವೆಚ್ಚ ಮಾಡುವಲ್ಲಿ ಹೊಣೆಗಾರಿಕೆಯನ್ನು ವಿಧಿಸುತ್ತದೆ.

73. ನನ್ನ ಸರ್ಕಾರವು ತಾನು ಮೊದಲಿನಿಂದಲೂ ಹೇಳುತ್ತಿರುವಂತೆಯೇ ಮಹಾಜನ್ ಆಯೋಗದ ತೀರ್ಮಾನ ಅಂತಿಮ ಮತ್ತು ಆ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ಯಾವುದೇ ಬಗೆಯ ವಿವಾದಕ್ಕೆ ಆಸ್ಪದವಿಲ್ಲ ಎಂದು ಸ್ಪಷ್ಟವಾಗಿ ಒತ್ತಿ ಹೇಳುತ್ತದೆ. ಕೇಂದ್ರ ಸರ್ಕಾರವು ಆ ವರದಿಯನ್ನು ಸಂಪೂರ್ಣವಾಗಿ ಜಾರಿಗೆ ತರಬೇಕೆಂದು ಆಗ್ರಹಪಡಿಸುತ್ತದೆ.

74. ಈ ಘನತೆವೆತ್ತ ಸದನದ ಜಂಟಿ ಅಧಿವೇಶನವನ್ನು ಉದ್ದೇಶಿಸಿ ಮಾತನಾಡುವ ಸದವಕಾಶ ದೊರೆತಿರುವುದು ನನ್ನ ಸೌಭಾಗ್ಯವೆಂದು ನಾನು ಭಾವಿಸುತ್ತೇನೆ. ನಿಮ್ಮೆಲ್ಲರಿಗೂ ಹಾಗೂ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕದ ಪ್ರಬುದ್ಧ ಜನತೆಗೂ ಸಹ ನನ್ನ ಶುಭ ಹಾರೈಕೆಗಳನ್ನು ತಿಳಿಸಬಯಸುತ್ತೇನೆ.

ಜೈ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ, ಜೈ ಹಿಂದ್

(ಸದನವು ಮಧ್ಯಾಹ್ನ 12 ಗಂಟೆ 02 ನಿಮಿಷಕ್ಕೆ ಮುಕ್ತಾಯಗೊಂಡು ಪುನಃ 15 ನಿಮಿಷಗಳ ನಂತರ ಸಭೆ ಸೇರಲು ನಿಶ್ಚಯಿಸಿತು)

(ಸದನವು ಪುನಃ 12 ಗಂಟೆ 20 ನಿಮಿಷಕ್ಕೆ ಸಮಾವೇಶಗೊಂಡಿತು ವಿಧಾನಸಭಾಧ್ಯಕ್ಷರಾದ ಶ್ರೀ ಎಂ.ಎ. ವೆಂಕಟಪ್ಪರವರು ಅಧ್ಯಕ್ಷ ಪೀಠವನ್ನು ಅಲಂಕರಿಸಿದ್ದರು)

2. ಕಾರ್ಯದರ್ಶಿಯವರ ವರದಿ

ಕಾರ್ಯದರ್ಶಿ : (ಅ) ಅಧ್ಯಕ್ಷರೇ, ಮಾನ್ಯ ರಾಜ್ಯಪಾಲರು ಮಾಡಿದ ಭಾಷಣದ ಪ್ರತಿಯನ್ನು ಸಭೆಯ ಮುಂದೆ ಮಂಡಿಸುತ್ತೇನೆ.

ಸನ್ಮಾನ್ಯ ರಾಜ್ಯಪಾಲರು ಮಾಡಿದ ಭಾಷಣದ ಆಂಗ್ಲದ ಭಾಷಾಂತರ.

1. Hon'ble Mr. Chairman, Hon'ble Mr. Speaker and Hon'ble Members, It gives me great pleasure to welcome all of you to this joint session of the Karnataka Legislature. My Government has successfully completed one year five months in office. It has been an eventful year since I last addressed you in this same forum. The Government has withstood challenges with fortitude and patience and has marched ahead towards progress and development.

2. We are meeting at a time when the country is yet to recover from the shock of the earthquake that struck Gujarat. Our hearts go out in sympathy to all those who have suffered loss of life and property in this terrible tragedy. Karnataka responded in its own humble way by rushing a medical relief team for immediate aid to the victims, followed by a team of structural engineers. Generous donations to the Chief Ministers' Relief Fund and the contributions of the public and Government employees will be used to take up comprehensive reconstruction activity in some of the affected areas.

3. As all of you are aware, Karnataka State passed through a harrowing time between 31st July, 2000 and 15th November, 2000 when Dr. Rajkumar and three are abducted by the notorious forest brigand Veerappan and was kept in captivity in the forest. My Government exhibited enormous patience and exemplary alertness in dealing with the situation. Consultations were held with the Government of Tamil Nadu from time to time, as the incident occurred in that State. Leaders of all the political parties in the State were kept informed of the developments. I wish to thank them for their advice and cooperation. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank the people of Karnataka and Tamilnadu who showed great patience, tolerance and understanding and behaved with restraint throughout the period of stress.

4. The law and order situation in the State has been well under control. There has been no serious breach of law and order or communal incidents. However, a few incidents warranted Police intervention such as the incident at kambalapalli Village of Chintamani Taluk, Where the police acted promptly and stopped further escalation of tension.

A serious development pointing to the involvement of a sect of fundamentalists came to notice when bomb blast in churches at Wadi, Hubli and Bangalore occurred in the month of June. Prompt and concerted efforts by the police, resulted in arrest of the culprits who had conspired to bring about communal divide.

5. As you meet to deliberate several issues, uppermost in the mind of my Government is the welfare and well being of the farming community of our State. We had a very good kharif crop season in 2000 resulting in surplus production, especially in foodgrains. In order to ensure that farmers get reasonable minimum price for their produce, Government commenced procurement operations. For the first time in Karnataka, Government started massive operations for the procurement of maize at Rs.445 per quintal and by 20th February about 16 lakhs quintals of maize had already been procured. Decentralized procurement operations in respect of Ragi, Bajara and jowar have also commenced and we will continue the procurement of foodgrains as long as necessary. The procurement of Tur has been taken up on commercial lines at a price upto Rs.1550/- per quintal and a quantity of 20,000 quintals has already been procured. Apart from foodgrains, the State Government has also intervened in the Potato market and procured Potatoes at a price of Rs.360 per quintal. Totally, a quantity of 1,12,370 quintals of potato has been purchased. Realising the need to provide necessary funds on a continuing basis to intervene in the agricultural market especially in the case of perishables Government has set up a revolving fund of Rs.75 crores out of which the Agriculture Produce Market Committees will contribute Rs.50 crores and the State Government will contribute Rs.25 crores. This will ensure that market intervention on behalf of the farmers will not suffer for want of funds.

6. The agriculture sector in India today is in a state of crisis. The Import Export-Policy appears to have resulted in several commodities being dumped in our country from abroad at cheaper prices, driving our own produce out of the market. The failure to adjust import duties on time to provide adequate protection to our farmers has also contributed to the crisis. With the lifting of quantitative restrictions

from April 2001, and the new WTO regime, our farmers and producers will be forced to face severe competition. Anticipating the problems that are likely to arise in the wake of WTO regime, my Government established a WTO cell in August 2000; incidentally, I must say that Karnataka is the first State in India to establish such a cell. They have already submitted their report on WTO and related issues in Agriculture and Food, which has been discussed at various fora. After considering all aspects the State Government would urge the Central Government to take the following steps:

- ❖ Import Duty on agricultural commodities should be raised to a suitable level to provide a level playing field to our farmers;
- ❖ An automatic trigger mechanism should be put in place so that, import duties get adjusted on time to reflect changes in international prices of agricultural commodities.
- ❖ State Governments should be consulted in WTO policy formulation more actively or international trade may be put on the concurrent list.
- ❖ An adequate and appropriate subsidy strategy should be finalized after due consultation with the States.
- ❖ Farmers should get adequate credit on time at substantially reduced interest rates. This is possible in NABARD were to lend directly to primary agricultural credit societies.

7. My Government urges the Government of India to bring out a White Paper on the various issues pertaining to agriculture in the country and convene a meeting of the National Development Council. This will enable the Chief Ministers of the State to discuss this vital subject at the national forum and help to formulate a comprehensive agricultural policy giving due importance to the marketing of agricultural produce, keeping in mind the interest of farmers. In about four weeks time, My government will present its second budget. This budget will contain further new initiatives for the welfare and well being of farmers and their families in our State.

8. We cannot forget that agriculture plays a significant role in the economy of the State and in the single largest source of rural employment. For the year 2000-2001, the State has set the target of producing 100.08 lakh tonnes of food grains, 17.62 lakh tonnes of oilseeds, 10.03 lakh bales of cotton and 315 lakh tonnes of tobacco.

9. In order to equip our farmers to meet the new challenges, there is a need to bring about changes in the Agricultural Extension system. In order to cater to the needs of the farming community, it has been decided to set up Raitha Mitra Kendras, or the farmers' contact centres in all the 745 hoblies of the State, where information and advice will be provided on matters, relating to inputs, agricultural prices etc., 700 such farmers contact centres have already been established.

10. The State is a pioneer in the Watershed Development model. A separate Directorate of Watershed Development has been created to co-ordinate the formulation, planning and implementation of various watershed development programmes effectively. Negotiations are under way with the World Bank to seek financial assistance for a comprehensive watershed development project. An MOU has been entered into with NABARD for obtaining assistance for the watershed development programmes in 10 districts of the State.

11. Today Horticulture is considered as a thrust area for development and improvement the economy of the farming community. Diversified land used practice has led to a greater shift towards horticulture from traditional agriculture, besides the involvement of the corporate sector. Keeping the available potentialities in view, the Government has an ambitious vision of increasing the area, production and productivity of horticulture crops. It is also proposes to improve the quality of the produce through modern techniques like drip irrigation, bio-technology, organic farming, cost effective floriculture and effective field training of selected farmers for growing expert quality high value horticulture crops.

12. The N.D.D.B. is setting up markets for horticultural products in Bangalore at a total cost of Rs. 150 crores. The State Government

has given 60 acres of land at Kannamangala Horticulture farm for creation of necessary marketing infrastructure. By implementing this project, a large number of farmers, specially small and marginal farmers, will benefit in disposing of their horticulture produce in time besides reducing post harvest losses.

13. The State Government has realised the potential for application of biotechnology in Horticulture sector and is establishing a state-of-the-art tissue-culture laboratory at Hulimavu, near Bangalore. Through this laboratory, it is intended to supply around 201 lakhs best quality seedlings.

14. With a view to encourage voluntary formation of Co-operative based on self help and wholly owned by members without any Government's share, the Souharda Sahakari Act has been passed. This Act will help reduce government control and allow cooperatives to function as self-reliant, economic enterprises guided by cooperative principles.

15. During 2000-2001, two new schemes were introduced to enrol women and minorities in all types of Co-operatives and minorities in all types of Co-operatives and thereby improve their financial and social status. Under Kisan Credit card scheme over 1,30,000 Kisan Credit Cards have been disbursed, Sanctioning a credit of nearly Rs. 30,000 lakhs.

16. As the Hon'ble members are aware, Karnataka has always been in the fore front of the states promoting decentralisation in our country. I am happy that the State was able to complete elections to Zilla Panchayats, Taluk Panchayaths and Gram Panchayats in a smooth manner during the year 2000 and continue the tradition of vibrant Panchayath Raj institutions in the State. My Government will consider further strengthening the institutions financially and administratively and in this regard look forward to the report of the State Finance Commission which has been appointed recently to look into these issues.

17. An innovation made by my government in the field of making Panchayath Raj Institutions more accountable and responsive is the introduction of Panchayath Jamabandhi. This system enables annual inspection of all the accounts and works of Gram Pahnchayaths according to a specified schedule by trained teams of Panchayath officials. These inspections are to be carried out by prior notice and in the presence of all the members of the Gram Panchayats and the general public. I am happy to inform the august house that the first round of Panchayath Jamabandhi has been completed in all the districts and the preliminary reort indicate that the experiment has resulted in making the functioning of Gram Panchayath more transparent and responsive.

18. The swachagrama Programme launched recently by my Government envisages the implementation of integrated village sanitation including the provision for paved roads, sullage and storm water drains, sanitary latrines, community compost yards and smokeless chulahs for every household in about 1,000 villages. Hon'ble members will be happy to know that the swachagrama Programme of Karnataka which is being implemented with an outlay of Rs.200 crores for the current year is undoubtedly the bigggest rural sanitation initiative ever undertaken in the country. I am sure that the State's efforts in rural sanitation will derive as a great example to focus the attention of the country towards the neglected issue of providing sanitation in the rural areas.

19. I am happily to inform the Hon'ble members that my Government has successfully completed the implementation of the neterlands Aided Integrated Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Project in about 2000 villages of Bijapur, Bagalkot, Dharwar, Gadag and Haveri Districts at the cost of about Rs.80 Crores. The quality of implementation of this programme has been appreciated by experts desibnated by the donor country and the people of villages in these difficult districts have at last found the facility of safe drinking water at their door step.

20. Rural roads form an important item of rural infrastructure, which is essential for the economic development of our villages. The newly established Rural Development Engineering Department has

taken up improvements to rural roads through out the State under a special action plan formulated for 1999-2000. Over 2,500 road works are being executed under this plan at a cost Rs.138 crores and 3340 Kms of village roads have been asphalted under this initiative.

21. Karnataka State is endowed with very valuable and magnificent forests, which are regards as an unique ecosystem in the world. Under Western Ghats Projects, Bio-diversity rich areas have been surveyed and conservation measures have been initiated by establishing biodiversity monitoring plots.

22. Afforestation of barren lands in the State to rev-vegetate the degraded forest lands, common lands and other community land is one of the core activities of the forest department. In the last year 3.66 lakh hectares of degraded and waste lands have been afforested. Under Farm Forestry programme, during this year, 61 million seedlings have been supplied and for the coming year, it is proposed to supply 60 million seedlings.

23. Government of Karnataka has accorded a very high priority to education in general and Primary Education in particular and also enhancing the quality of education at all levels.

24. In order to encourage community support in the educational system and to improve both physical infrastructure and quality inputs in Government Schools, a school adoption programme called Dattu Yojane has been introduced which has evoked very good response from corporate houses, public and voluntary organisations. Already 430 schools have been adopted under this scheme.

25. Government have launched Samudayadatta Shale programme to bring schools closer to the community and create a sense of ownership and resonisbility towards schools. In order to ensure community ownership of school and also to enforce accountability of the school to the community, my Government proposes to constitute School Development and Monitoring Committee for Government schools by amending the Education Act. Grama Panchayat Education Committees will be constituted to oversee the activities to ensure the acceleration of universalization of elementary education.

26. In order to improve the quality of education in Government Schools through the use of information technology, computer based education is being introduced in 1000 selected high schools in the State, Chaitanya - a massive intensive inservice training programme for primary school teachers have been launched and 50,000 teachers will be trained under this programme by March 2001 and another 50,000 by June end.

27. A long pending demand has been met by implementing the U.G.C. payscales to University and College teachers during this year. All the Universities have created websites to disseminate information relating to admissions, examination results and other academic activities. To encourage IT and Management Education, new courses such as BCA, MCA and MBA have been introduced in 150 colleges. With a view to streamlining and improving the functioning of universities, we propose to bring comprehensive amendments to Universities Act. This subject is already before the Joint Select Committees and we expect it to be passed during the course of the year.

28. My Government while implementing the schemes for overall development of scheduled Caste and Schedule Tribes, will provide thrust on education, irrigation and housing apart from skill development and self employment oriented programmes. The Ganga Kalyana Scheme is being implemented on a large scale and more than 1100 borewells have been drilled during this year.

29. In order to arrest dropouts, a scheme for awarding of incentive scholarship to scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe middle school girl students will be introduced. More number of hostel buildings would be constructed to provide adequate accommodation and other facilities to Scheduled caste/Schedule Tribe children. Intensive training programmes for unemployed Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribes in job oriented courses by upgrading the existing skills will be continued. Special schemes for economic development of primitive tribal groups and establishment of education complexes for Scheduled Tribe girls in low literacy pockets will also be taken up.

30. My Government will also continue to safeguard the interest of the Backward classes and minorities and implement schemes for their development. 20 Post-metric and 3 pre-metric hostels have been constructed. Boarding charges have been increased for pre-metric children from Rs.350 to 400 per month and for post-metric children from Rs. 400 to 450 per month. 20 hostel buildings have been taken up for construction, at an estimated cost of Rs. 8 crores. Under Ganga Kalyana Scheme for Backward Classes and Minorities 505 borewells have been commissioned creating an irrigation potential of 2500 ha.

31. With a view to empowering women in a substantial way, Stree Shakti scheme has been launched. It is proposed to establish totally one lakh self help groups and 38,000 have already been set up. Each self help group will receive Rs. 5000 revolving fund and Rs. 5000 worth of kit. Women have been made sole owners of the houses under Ashraya scheme. Tuition fees for girl students upto PUC level have been waived.

32. The Millennium IT Policy was launched in March 2000 with the objective of carrying it to the common man. Under *Yuva.com* seven pilot centres have already been set up. The IT seats in Engineering Colleges have been increased from 10,000 to 14,000. A Single Window Committee for giving expeditious approval of laying of Optic Fibre Cable under the chairmanship of Chief Secretary has been constituted. The Government of Karnataka is committed to maintain its pre-eminent position in the field of not only IT but also other knowledge based industry.

33. A programme for providing computerised land records to every farmer in the State is under progress. Within the next one year more than 20 million farmers would be getting computerised land records from RTC kiosks to be set up in every taluk headquarters. The project has already been implemented in ten taluks and the response of the people is overwhelming. It is planned to operationalise this scheme of computerisation of land records in 30 more taluks before the end of March 2001. This programme will go a long way in making e-government a reality in rural areas and would also result in transparency and efficiency in the land records administration.

34. The State Government also has a programme of computerising the Registration Department. It is in the process of computerising the valuation process and therefore eliminating discretion of Registration officers. Encumbrance details of all the properties would be made available over the internet under this project. This scheme would be operationalised in 12 taluks in next 6 months.

35. In order to give a thrust to the transport sector and provide better transport facilities to the public, my Government is formulating a transport policy. The North Eastern Karnataka Road Transport Corporation has also come into existence with effect from 15-08-2000 with Gulbarga as its Headquarters. Computerisation of the Regional Transport Offices in Bangalore City is nearing completion and computerisation of all other Regional Transport Offices in the State will also be done in a phased manner.

36. My Government wishes to convey its gratitude to the Government of Maharashtra for its gesture in releasing water into Bhima river which has provided timely help to overcome drinking water shortage faced by the people of border areas of Bijapur and Gulbarga Districts.

37. The Cauvery Water Dispute among the State of Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Union Territory of Pondicherry is before the Tribunal. The Tribunal hearings are in an advanced stage. I would like to assure that my Government is committed to protecting the interests of the farmers of Cauvery Basin in our State.

38. As per the decision of the Supreme Court, crest gates have been erected upto the height of 519.60 M. in Almatti Reservoir and water has been stored in the reservoir for the first time. I am happy to say that the clearance of Central Government has been obtained for Upper Krishna Project, Stage-II and efforts are being made to get the financial assistance under Accelerated irrigation Benefit Programme. All efforts are being made to fully utilise the State's share of Krishna Water.

39. In order to promote participatory management in irrigation sector, Water Users Co-operative Societies are being formed. 872 Water Users societies have already started functioning. Under the Atchkat of Ghataprabha Left Bank Canal, the villagers of Yabaratti Village near Harogeri have created history by coluntarily coming forward for construction of Feeder Channel from pickup weir across Harogeri Nala. Under the initiation of the Horogeri Water Users Society, the farmers have overwhelmingly participated in the construction of canals under Shramadhana. Goyernment has decided to encourage such successful experiments throughout the state.

40. An irrigation potential of 31,681 ha. has been creted with an investment of Rs.1394 crores till the end of December, 2001. It is planned to create an additional potential of 81,000 ha. upto the end of March 2001. During the coming year, it is proposed to create an irrigation potential of 1,20,000 ha. under Upper Krishna Project, and 16,100 ha. under Ghataprabha and Malaprabha Projects.

41. The Leyley Committee constituted by the Government with the objective of making Water and Land Management Institute and six CADAs functionally effective has submitted its report to the Government. The modalities for implementation of the recommendations is being examined.

42. In order to bring transparency and competitiveness in Irrigation sector, the general practice of tendering for works at mofe than the SR rates has been completely avoided. Instead, now the tenders for works are being received at 20% to 35% below the SR rates, which has resulted in enormous savings to Government in the construction costs.

43. Under minor irrigation, a potential of 1229 Ha. has been created during the year. During next year, it is proposed to create a potential of 5000 Ha. Work is also under progress, to protect a length of 9000 metres under Flood Control and Anti-Sea-Erosion.

44. My Government has proposed a Project under the World Bank to rehabilitate about 5000 traditional tanks through community driven approach. In order to facilitate professional management of the project,

the Government has established Jala Samvardhane Yojana Sangha (JSYS), a Registered Society as a nodal agency under the chairmanship of Chief Minister, to provide multi-disciplinary leadership for planning and implementation of the project. State Government has also sought financial assistance from HUDCO for funding rehabilitation of about 1000 traditional tanks in 72 critical taluks of the State.

45. I am happy to inform the House that the Government of India has declared 192 Kms. Bijapur-Hubli road as 13th National Highway in the State (NH-218). The second phase of Hubli-Dharwad bypass on BOT basis has also been completed and commissioned for traffic. During the current year, 72 roads and 17 bridges have been completed under NABARD assistance. For the first time, district-wise maintenance of 7000 Kms. of State High-ways for three years is being entrusted to contractors and HUDCO assistance of Rs.200 crores will be taken by KRDCCL for this project.

46. As part of its efforts to increase the supply of affordable housing to the public, Government has sanctioned a major scheme of 100 housing projects to be taken up by Karnataka Housing Board. These Projects will be taken up in all the important towns and cities of the State. 13,500 houses will be constructed for various income categories and 15,000 sites will be formed over the next two years.

47. Government has sanctioned Nirmala Jyothi Yojana - a massive programme of Slum improvement in 21 cities with a population of one lakh and above. The project will provide basic amenities such as water supply, surface drainage, community toilets, underground drainage, road improvement, street lights and community halls in 985 slums with a population of 15 lakhs. Training and skill upgradation will be given to the slum dwellers to improve their income earning capacity. This is the first time that such a large-scale programme of slum improvement is being taken up in the State.

48. Rajiv Gandhi Housing Corporation has been set up to bring focus and effectiveness in housing programs in the State. Construction of 2 lakhs houses is under progress. All Ashraya committees have been

constituted. Rs.70 crores of subsidy has been released. About 16000 houses have been constructed under Ambedkar Scheme last year and around 10000 are in progress. Under Indira Awas Yojana, 32000 houses are being constructed and 16000 houses are being upgraded. Enhanced powers have been given to Deputy Commissioners to purchase land for sites for up to 20% above the guidance value.

49. My Government is taking necessary steps to improve the infrastructure facilities in all the towns and cities of the State. For this purpose, Government is availing Rs.100 crores loan from HUDCO. The scheme has already been launched during December, 2000.

50. ABD Assisted Karnataka Urban Development and Coastal Environment Management Project has been initiated in ten coastal towns with an object to optimize social and economic development in the region. The project covers capacity building water supply, rehabilitation and expansion, urban environmental improvements, street and bridge improvements, coastal environmental management etc. at a cost of Rs.1063 crores.

51. The first step in the direction of setting up of the New Bangalore International Airport (NBIA) has been taken when the Hon'ble Prime Minister, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpai inaugurated the commencement of the work on 19th of January, 2001.

52. Members are aware that Karnataka is the first State to sign an MOU with Indian Railways for accelerating the implementation of long pending rail projects in the State through a Special-Purpose vehicle. Four projects have been identified and the new Corporation will be made operational shortly.

53. My Government has taken several initiative in the past year to improve the health status of the people of the State. Two important schemes for improving womens' health have been launched - the Suraksha Herige Scheme to promote safe deliveries and the scheme for supply of personal Hygiene Kits to rural women. The supply of drugs has been streamlined and funds for purchase of medicine for

PHCs enhanced by Rs. 25000 per PHC. Over 400 Doctors, 860 Lab Technicians and other Para-Medical Staff have been recruited to fill up vacancies in rural areas.

54. I am happy to announce that the State is on the verge of completely eradicating Polio. I am hopeful that measures undertaken through the Polio eradication campaign will result in declaring Karnataka a Polio-Free State this year.

55. To ensure Doctors work in remote areas my Government has introduced several landmark measures, including posting of Doctors through counselling, provision of Rs. 1000 per month as rent to Doctors not provided with quarters, and Rs.2 crore grant to repair quarters of Medical Officers working in rural areas.

56. Based on the recommendations of the Task Force and wide discussion with all stakeholders, my Government proposes to announce a comprehensive Health and Population Policy for the State in the coming year. Partnerships have been forged with several NGOs to support government efforts in improving the delivery of health and family welfare services in rural areas. Nearly 1000 PHCs are being provided with essential laboratory equipment and consumables.

57. In order to improve the activities under Animal Husbandry, an MOU has been entered into with NDDB for undertaking programmes worth Rs.26 crores which would include establishment of Disease Free zone. I am also happy to inform you that Karnataka has been selected for establishing the Southern Region Disease Diagnostic Laboratory at the Institute of Animal Health and Veterinary Biologicals, Bangalore. This laboratory will have state of the art diagnostic equipment for disease investigation and diagnosis.

58. A Global Investors meet was organised during June-July 2000 to promote new industrial investments in the State. There was tremendous response as 254 proposals were sanctioned with an investment of Rs.27,000/- crores and an employment potential of about 1 lakh persons.

59. An operational perspective plan for Industrialization of each District is under preparation. The modernisation and upgradation of technology scheme has been launched under State sector which envisages providing financial assistance at reduced rate of interest to small scale industry to be able to compete globally by manufacturing quality products.

60. Food processing Industry including fruits and vegetables, meat and milk products play an important role in providing considerable potential for rapid growth and also upgrade the economic prosperity levels of the farming community. Hence, it is proposed to establish initially 5 Food Processing Parks at Belgaum, Bagalkot, Malur, Maddur and Chitradurga with Government of India assistance.

61. Government has brought out a new mineral policy in the State. A number of Indian and Foreign countries have already commenced exploration activities in Central and Northern Karnataka. Information relating to Mining and Quarrying has been computerised and put on website. Construction of artificial recharge structures has become essential to retrieve groundwater level in 72 critical taluks, where groundwater utilization has exceeded 50%. In order to rejuvenate groundwater levels, construction of artificial recharge structures will be taken up in all these taluks.

62. COMNAP, Common Man's Needs at Affordable prices is a special programme being implemented by the Karnataka Food and Civil Supplies Corporation to benefit a large number of families in the State, to obtain their daily food and civil supplies requirements at affordable prices. Under the scheme, 'Common Man's Food Basket, has been identified and the items constitute major and costlier components like :-
 1) Toor Dhal 2) Sun-Flower 3) Palmolein Oil 4) Groundnut Oil 5) Coconut Oil 6) Wholesale Atta, 7) Rava 8) Maida 9) Ragi 10) Iodized crystal salt 11) Iodized Table Salt 12) Soaps and cleaning powder 13) Tea 14) Match box. Each of the above items are intended to be provided at Rs.2/- less per K.G. compared to market prices. Considering an average middle

class family of 5 persons, a household utilizing COMNAP Schemes will save about Rs.150/- to 200/- per month. Any Common Man can pick up any of the above items and he will not require ration card under this scheme.

63. Government of Karnataka, as part of its commitment to reforming and restructuring power sector in the State, has continued its efforts in this direction. The Government has come out with and independent Power Producers' Policy keeping in view the requirement and capacity addition over next ten years to ensure power adequacy in the State.

64. The Karnataka Electricity Regulatory Commission, which has commenced functioning in a Full-fledged manner has given its first Tariff order. For the first time in State, the tariffs have been revised after giving an opportunity to the public to file their objections and in a completely transparent manner. Keeping in view the problems faced by the farmers of the State during this year, my Government has decided that the existing tariff in respect of agricultural pumpsets upto 10 HP should continue and it would make good the shortfall to Karnataka Power Transmission Corporation Limited amounting to Rs. 144 crores. This demonstrates my Government's commitment to the cause of the State's ryots.

65. I am happy to note that the steps taken by my Government to encourage non-conventional energy projects have borne fruits. The total installed generation capacity from 40 projects stood at 260 MW at the end of December 2000.

66. The Karnataka Power Corporation Limited is the major power generation utility in the State and contributes three-fourths of the electricity requirements of the State. It is planned to commission units 3 & 4 of 60 MWs each during 2001-2002 at Gerusoppa Project. KPCL has taken up the 7th Unit of 210 MW capacity for implementation at Raichur Thermal Power Station and the project is expected to be completed in 28 months. In view of its excellent track record, my Government has decided to allot the Alamatti Power Project with an

installed capacity of 297 MW to KPCL. Karnataka is the first State to sign a reforms-linked multipartite financing agreement with the IDFC, so that KPC can start new projects.

67. Members will be pleased to know that Karnataka is the first State to receive financial assistance from the Central Government under the Accelerated Power Development Programme. Under this programme, our State will receive Rs. 294 crores in 2001-02 for improving rural power supply in Mysore, Belgaum, Bijapur and Hubli circles.

68. My Government had constituted a Commission under the chairmanship of Justice R. Ramakrishna, retired judge of the High Court to examine various aspects relating to giving a fair share of government jobs to the rural candidates. The Commission gave its report in October, 2000. After careful consideration of the entire issue, the Karnataka Reservation of Appointments or posts (in the Civil Services of the State) for Rural Candidates Act, 2000, has been passed providing for reservation of 25% for the rural candidates in direct recruitment to the posts in the Civil Service of the State.

69. The progressive and forward looking policies adopted by my Government has placed Karnataka on the world map and several eminent international personalities have been visited our State. In particular, I would like to mention here about the visit of the World Bank President in November 2000. Impressed by the work done so far, he confirmed the commitment of the World Bank to provide assistance to Karnataka to the extent of Rs. 12,000 crores to usher in reforms in various sectors. These reforms cover the areas of fiscal policy, power sector and governance. A Mid-term Fiscal Plan for the year 2001 to 2004-2005 will be presented to the Legislature. The Power Sector reforms will focus on privatisation of distribution, reduction in transmission and distribution losses, and streamlining the functions of the KPTCL to make it a financially viable institution.

70. With a view to rationalising the tax structure of the State, improving the State revenues, and to ensure stable public finances, my

Government had constituted a tax Reforms Commission headed by former Chief Minister Shri Veerappa Moily. The commission has submitted its report and its recommendations are under consideration.

71. My Government is committed to promote good governance and will shortly come out with a Governance strategy and Action Plan. As you are all aware, an Administrative Reforms Commission has already been set up under the chairmanship of Shri Haranahally Ramaswamy in April 2000 with a view to toning up the efficiency in the administration. The Commission has now submitted its interim report and has made several recommendations to improve efficiency and bring about greater responsiveness to the needs of the people. The reforms proposed cover three areas of Secretariat Administration, District Level Administration and Good Governance. The Government is examining these recommendations. It will be the endeavour of my Government to reform the civil service and usher in a people friendly administration at all levels of governance.

72. Bringing about transparency and accountability is a major ingredient of good governance. My Government has taken concrete steps in this direction by enacting two legislations of great significance, namely Karnataka Right to Information Act and the Karnataka Transparency in Tenders and Procurements Act. While the former will provide citizens access to information about the functions and decisions of Government, the latter will ensure accountability in the expenditure of public funds.

73. My Government reiterates its consistent stand that the award of Mahajan Commission is final and makes it emphatically clear that there is no dispute whatsoever and urges the Government of India to implement the report in its entirety.

74. It has been a great privilege addressing the Joint Session of this august body. I convey my Best Wishes to all of you and also to be enlightened people of Karnataka.

Jai Karnataka, Jai Hind.